162, 166, 619, 101, 622, 361, 438

/For an account of the settled tribes of Oman and the Trucial Coast in 1920--territory occupied, rulers, brief history, their settlements, means of livelihood, etc. see 30: Great Britain, Saudi Arabia MJ1, category 116, pp. 546-602./

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1963 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4 QATAR MK3

TABLE I—STATES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PERSIAN GULF REGION
(The population is the estimated settled population.)

STATE	POLITICAL STATUS	CAPITAL AND POPULATION	REPORTED BOUNDARIES	REMARKS
QATAR*	Trucial sheikhdom until 1868; British confirmation of independent British-protected status in 1913 and 1916.	Doha	East-west across the peninsula from Khor el Odeid; area given as 4300 square miles.	Resident British representative since 1950; no statistical information available except data on crude-oil exports; dispute with Bahrein on rights in the northwest end of peninsula.
ABU DHABI	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Abu Dhabi, 4000 to 10,000	On the coast west at Khor el Odeid, east at Khor al Ghamdha; one day's camel journey inland; area given as 2300 square miles.	In area probably the largest of the present Trucial states; the town of Abu Dhabi is connected to the mainland by a causeway covered with water at high tide, and has a poor supply of drinking water; good relations with the Bedouins of the region are reported.
DIBAI	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Dibai, 20,000	On the coast west at Khor al Ghamdha, east at Abu Hail; area given as 1500 square miles.	The town of Dibai is probably the largest of the region, containing the local market for pearls and the office of the local representative of the petroleum concessionaire; seaplane base; the town is located on the most navigable creek of the area and is occasional port of call for steamers from overseas; recent visitors report friction between the sheikh and local Bedouins and with the descendants of the former ruling family (until last century) resident at Dairah, across the creek from Dibai.
SHARJAH	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Sharjah, 3000 to 15,000	Enclave sheikhdom of Ajman; stretches inland to Dhaid.	Aerodrome with fortified compound for passengers' accommodation; offshore pearling grounds; residence of British representative for the Trucial Coast; formerly overlord of Ras al Khaima and other sheikhdoms, and thus most important political power in the region; the town of Sharjah is visited by steamers from India.
AJMAN	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Ajman 2000	Sometimes reported entirely enclosed by territory of Sharjah; also reported as touching territory of Ras al Khaima; area given as 150 square miles.	Sometimes reported to be tributary to Sharjah; sheikh keeps a riding stable.
UMM AL QAIWAIN	Trucial sheikhdom since 1820.	Umm al Qaiwain, 2000	Including the oasis Falaj al Ali; area given as 250 square miles.	In the past more important than today; frequently at war during the nineteenth century; sometimes before 1853 part of Sharjah, and again from 1918 to 1929; the town of Umm al Qaiwain is located on a small peninsula.
RAS AL KHAIMA	Trucial sheikhdom since 1919.	Ras al Khaima, 3000	On the coast west at Jazirat al Hamra, east at Sha'am; reported to extend inland but exclude the mountainous area.	In the past tributary to Sharjah; in 1952 the sheikh refused to give permission for the establishment of a flying-boat base; in contrast with other sheikhdoms, a large part of the revenue is derived from the sale of dates.

1: Melamid K-4 (no date) 1963 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

TABLE I—*Continued*

STATE	POLITICAL STATUS	CAPITAL AND POPULATION	REPORTED BOUNDARIES	REMARKS
KALBA	Trucial sheikhdom since 1937.	Kalba, 5000 to 5000	On the coast of the Gulf of 'Oman north at Dibba, south at Khor Kalba; includes territory on the west side of the mountains of 'Oman.	In the past tributary to Sharjah.
'OMAN	Independent British-protected sultanate.	Muscat, 500,000	Exclave on the peninsula of Musandam west at Sha'am, east at Dibba; main territory on Gulf of 'Oman east of Khor Kalba.	'Oman sovereignty over peninsula of Musandam established with British help.
OTHER TERRITORIES:				
FUJAIRAH	Sheikhdom without Trucial status.	....	Probably enclave in Kalba located primarily near the Gulf of 'Oman.	In the past probably tributary to Sharjah.
BURAIMI	Neutral area claimed by Saudi Arabia, 'Oman, and Abu Dhabi.	5000	Probably bounded by many Trucial sheikhdoms and 'Oman.	Inland oasis reported before 1925 and today under the influence of Abu Dhabi.
HAFIT	Reported joint property of Abu Dhabi and 'Oman.	....	....	Near Buraimi.
DHAID	Reported as neutral part of Sharjah, and part of Kalba.	....	....	On motorcar road from the Persian Gulf to Gulf of 'Oman.
LIWA	Political control nowhere described.	....	....	Southwest of Abu Dhabi; reported to be trading with Abu Dhabi.

*Parts of the region between the boundaries of Qatar and the town of Abu Dhabi may be territory of Saudi Arabia. South of the town of Abu Dhabi there may be territory of the Trucial sheikhdoms or of Saudi Arabia or of 'Oman or of Aden Protectorate.

As Sir Percy Cox[†]!
^

writes: "The relative position of the Principalities . . . depends almost entirely on the personalities of the ruling Shaikhs for the time being. Unfortunately, owing to the chronic prevalence . . . of . . . feuds, they have for the last few generations been a short-lived class." Besides the territories of the sheikhs, there are neutral areas. In one of them, the Buraimi Oasis, near the border of 'Oman, a durbar (an official meeting of all the Trucial sheikhs with a British representative) took place in 1945;[8] this inconveniently located place was selected because sheikhs' wars prevented the choice of a better place near the coast. Another neutral area (although there seems to be a difference of opinion on its status) is the oasis of Dhaid,[9] on the motorcar route from Sharjah to the

[8] O'Shea, *op. cit.* [see footnote 3, above], p. 171. See below (p. 204) for other claims to Buraimi.

[9] *Ibid.*, p. 156. See also Desmond Vesey-Fitzgerald: From Hatta to Oman by Car, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 42, 1951, pp. 544-560; reference on p. 553.

[†][For footnote, see p. 197 of text -- Analyst]

coco-nut trees grow down to the shore on either side of the creek, on the southern side of which is a palm-mat 'summer palace' belonging to the Sheikh of Ras-al-Khaimah, now used to house a discarded wife. The town is divided by the creek into two sections—Dubai proper, where the merchants and wealthier classes live, and Dera, the fishermen's quarter. We made for the latter and moored alongside a primitive wooden jetty beside which large pearling dhows were undergoing a careen.

The streets of Dera are filthy in the extreme, the inhabitants living in hovels roofed with palm-matting supported by wooden joists. The only presentable house was the coral and mortar residence of Ali, the Anglo-Persian Company's agent in Dubai; we stopped here for a few minutes and had a cup of tea made with condensed milk. The Arabs, whose chief occupation is pearl diving, fishing, shipbuilding and wool-weaving, were ragged and unkempt; many had sores on their legs and arms, and appeared to be suffering from eye infections. Many of the children were badly pock-marked. The stench of refuse, stale fish, camel dung and rotting food was unbearable, and attracted clouds of flies.

One noticed a variety of racial types. The Omani Arabs predominated, but one saw also fair-skinned Persians, Bedouins, Sunussi, and negroid types who were obviously ex-slaves. Many of the Arabs, thin-bearded men with hawk-like noses, looked more villainous than any I have seen. We strolled through the bazaar, but the shops were small and untidy and displayed goods of inferior quality. In several of the shops I noticed ancient iron safes, gaudily painted, which were of English manufacture and had obviously been taken from merchantmen by the pirates. There is little doubt that most of the inhabitants of Dera, a vicious, sullen crowd, would gladly have returned to piracy had they been given half a chance. In contrast to their cruel, sardonic faces around us, I was struck by the beauty of some of the children who swarmed at our side, feeling our clothes and touching our hands. A little girl of nine or ten attracted my attention; her perfectly formed features, luminous brown eyes and Grecian lips made me sigh for a pencil and sketchbook. The little boys were delightful creatures too, with laughing eyes and white, even teeth.

The streets were extremely dark, with high walls on one side and palm-matting completely covering them like a roof, whilst the 'road' was a quagmire of mud and camel dung. Six shops out of every ten exhibited panniers of dried fruits and cereals, figs,

2: O'Shea G-3 (1944-1945) 1947 MK4 Trucial Oman MK4

all the fun that he could out of desert life, yet he worked exceedingly hard and devoted several hours each day to the study of Arabic.

Tandy had been instructed to pay a visit to Djaidh to discuss with the tribal leaders the continuation of work on the wells which irrigate the large date plantations for which this district is famous. Djaidh, which is not a village but a district, lies about fifty miles east of Sharjah on the direct camel route, but the sand tracks are extremely soft for vehicular traffic and Tandy had chosen a circular route by way of Falat-al-'Ali and Muraq-quibat, where the road is reasonably good and has a hard surface. It added twenty miles to the journey, but the extra comfort and ease of travel compensated for this.

I had been invited to join the party, since Captain Tandy had expectations of meeting Sheikh Mahommed bin Ali, ruler of the wild Beni Quitab tribe of Bedouins. I had often expressed a wish to see this chief, whose fierceness and bold character were celebrated in Oman; I never expected to have this privilege, for the Beni Quitab lived in remote and inaccessible parts of the desert, mostly at the foothills of the Jebel-al-Faiyah range, and were continually changing their camping-ground. It was reported, moreover, that they were hostile to foreigners and that Sheikh Mahommed had met only two Europeans, one of them being Sir Geoffrey Prior, the British Resident, who had difficulty in finding him. Arabs are very chary of giving information to foreigners concerning the whereabouts of Bedouin tribes, presumably because they fear reprisals.

Owing to the waterless nature of Oman—which is, geographically, merely a coastal extension of the Great Southern Desert, or Rub-al-Khali—date plantations of any appreciable size are rare. On the Oman Gulf side of the peninsula, and at Muscat, they flourish to such an extent that their export forms one of the staple industries of this part of south-east Arabia, but west of the Shimailiyah the only large plantations are at Falaj-al-'Ali and Djaidh, where their ownership is shared by the tribes in common. Djaidh is neutral territory, but the responsibility for managing the plantations is divided between the Sheikhs of Sharjah and Kalba; the Sheikh of Ras-al-Khaimah is responsible for the plantations at Falaj-al-'Ali, although the Sheikh of Umm-al-Quwain has some interest in this plantation. The district is inhabited by Kalba tribesmen, who live in encampments near the wells; they are responsible, through their headmen or sub-chiefs, for the maintenance of the irrigation

travellers had declared did not exist in Oman. There was no road and the ground was hard and very bumpy, full of holes and nullahs. Tall grasses and shrubs grew in profusion, including *shinan* and the sea-green *harm* as well as some *Hadh* bushes, indicative of recent rain or heavy dews. The yellow flowers of the *zahr* blossomed in abundance, attracting myriads of insects, whilst several hares darted ahead of our truck and scurried away into their holes. The acacia (*samr*) trees grew in thin copses and were frequently fifteen feet high, which is unusual in this part of the desert.

When we had traversed five miles of this wooded country without so much as a trace of human life, our guides became nervous and begged to be allowed to return to Djaidh. We let them go, giving them a handful of biscuits and some tobacco as a gift, but before they left us they pointed to a site some two miles ahead where, they said, the *Badu* had last encamped. When we came upon this site we did, indeed, find the remains of a camp, the grass being lighter in patches than the surrounding herbage, whilst nearby was an old well and the dead embers of a fire. But of the *Badu* there was no sign.

We sat on a hillock for a few minutes, drinking tea, while Tandy and Williamson made a survey of the land; there were no tracks to guide us and nothing to indicate where the *Badu* might have concealed themselves. Sheikh Hamid, an amusing raconteur, recounted tales of the Beni Quitab tribe. These nomads number several thousand and, split into various sections, they roam all over the Oman country; branches of this tribe are to be found in the Nejd and Kuwait, but these have separate sheikhs and do not owe allegiance to Mohammed bin Ali. They are a wild, simple people, despising both the town dwellers and those who work with their hands. They live on dates, which they mostly steal, camels' milk, fish and rice. Some of these commodities they are obliged to buy, and the money for this purpose they obtain by selling camels, animal skins, including wolves, lizard and ibex; donkeys, wild honey, cheese and gazelle meat.

The Beni Quitab are famous camel breeders and during our trip across the *Marbakh* we saw large herds of these animals with their calves. They also breed donkeys, capturing the wild asses when young, and gather wild honey from the plains. Although they do as little work as possible, they cultivate small patches of ground to which they return twice a year, growing millet and tobacco, which they smoke in tiny pipes with cane stems.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

The Principalities

I. Abu Dhabi

This principality is the largest in area and only second in importance to Shārjah. It stretches along the coast from the creek of Ghanādhah on the N. to that of 'Odeid on the W., a distance of over 200 miles. Towards the interior the boundaries are ill defined; they are said to extend on the E. to the Bireimi oasis, and on the S. to the margin of the Ruba' el-Khāli desert. The settled population is believed to be between 10,000 and 15,000, while the Bedouins (chiefly Beni Yās and Manāsīr) may number nearly 4,000. The ruling Sheikh is Hamdān ibn Zeid el-Khalīfah, who succeeded his brother Tahnūn in 1912, and is described as a firm ruler, able to maintain order. During the period of anxiety following the victories of Ibn Sa'ūd of Nejd in 1913, he endeavoured to introduce arms and ammunition on the plea that the Emir might invade his territories (see above). In the same year he negotiated a truce between the Sultan of Oman and the rebel chiefs. He appears to be a worthy descendant of his predecessor Zeid ibn Khalīfah, who in 1908 was the most powerful personality in Trucial Oman. The principality consists of the following districts from E. to W.: Abu Dhabi, Dhafrah (including Beinūnah and Līwah) Sabkhah Matti, Mijan, and 'Aqal, with the possible addition of Khatam. It further includes the islands of Arzanah, Dayyīnah, Dalmah, Dās, Qarnein Salāli, Yās, and Zirko.

i. *Abu Dhabi*, the 'home district', consists of undulating sandy desert, with scanty grazing and poor water-supply; there are, however, wells on or near the routes to the Bireimi oasis at *Bul Huweil*, *Masheirif*, and *Juhar*, and at *Silmīyah*, 20 miles SSE. of Abu Dhabi town. *Sūq Iblīs*, about 25 miles E. of the town, is a fantastically shaped outcrop of sandstone forming a landmark on the main Bireimi road. *Sameih*, 6 or 7 miles E. of Khōr el-Ghanādhah, is a hilly place with 7 wells of poor water used as a rendezvous by tribesmen of Abu Dhabi and Dibai when preparing for war. The only village of consequence is *Batīn* on the N. shore of the inlet of the same name, 1½ miles SW. of the nearest part of Abu Dhabi town; it consists of 130 date-branch huts belonging to the Āl Bu Maheir and Sūdān tribes; it has some date plantations with wells, and 50 pearl-boats.

The town of **Abu Dhabi** is situated on the coast, about 88 miles SW. of Shārjah, with a population of over 6,000. It extends for about 1½ miles along the shore, and consists chiefly of mat huts,

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

361 621 438 with only a few stone buildings; the Sheikh's large rectangular fort, with towers at the corners, is a little distance inland behind the town, and on the outskirts in the same direction is a bazaar of Indian traders from Tatta in Sind. There are some indifferent wells at the back of the town, and shallow pits yield water at a place 3–4 miles distant; formerly water was brought by sea from Dibai. The bazaar has about 70 shops, more than half of which are kept by Persians, and a third by Hindus. The people live almost entirely by pearl-diving and fishing, there being little cultivation, but they own more than 700 camels. About half are of the Beni Yās tribe, the remainder of various other tribes, chiefly Āl Bu Maheir, Sūdān, and Marar. The Persians number 500, the Hindus less than a hundred.

At high tide Abu Dhabi becomes an island, through the connexion of creeks and backwaters. About 10 miles inland there is a ford on the creek called *Khōr el-Maqta'*, connecting the interior of Khōr el-Batīn with the sea at a point 2 or 3 miles beyond the town. Here a fort on a sandbank in the middle of the creek commands the passage to the mainland, which can only be made on foot at low tide.

634 133 361 ii. *Dhafrah*, between the Persian Gulf on the N. and the Great Desert on the S., is bounded on the W. by Sabkhat Matti and the Jāfūrah desert, and on the E. by Khatam. It is a vast region, containing at least five known tracts, *Līwah*, *Beinūnah*, *Qufa*, *Taff*, and *Dhafrah Proper*. Līwah, the most important, lies farthest inland; it is a narrow belt 175 miles long, running E. and W., and consisting of undulating white sand-dunes, with a series of more than 20 depressions, each of which contains fertile soil and supports the cultivation of a neighbouring village; water is obtained at about 12 ft. Beinūnah is a tract of heavy red sand or soil, with scrub and grazing, lying NW. of Līwah, and between it and the Gulf. Qufa, N. of Līwah, is a barren region of sandy ridges, with a few shallow wells; Taff, a maritime strip extending the whole length of Dhafrah. The tract of Dhafrah Proper is E. of Beinūnah, and resembles it in character. The inhabitants of the whole of Dhafrah belong to the Beni Yās and Manāsīr tribes. The remaining tracts are of less importance. iii. *Sabkhah Matti* is a coastal district W. of Beinūnah, extending for a distance of about 30 miles and consisting of a saline or nitrous marsh without wells or vegetation. iv. *Mijan*, W. of the preceding, is a district of stony mounds and firm pebbly tracts, with some grazing in winter, and a good many wells. v. *'Aqal*, between Mijan and the base of the peninsula of El-Qatar, is a tract of heavy dark sand. vi. *Khatam* lies NE. of Dhafrah Proper,

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

and is said to be a meeting-ground of the Beni Yās, Manāsīr, and Na'īm tribes. 634 133

Of the islands, only *Dalmah* and *Yās* need be described. The former lies more than 40 miles E. by S. of the mouth of the *Khōr el-'Odeid*, and about half that distance from the nearest point of the coast to the SE. It is 5 miles by 2½ miles, and for the most part hilly, with wells of brackish water and deposits of red oxide of iron. There is a small settlement of Beni Yās; but the chief importance of the island is that at the end of the pearling season a temporary bazaar is set up, and persons engaged in the trade, including the Indian merchants of the Trucial Coast, go there to collect debts and purchase pearls. Yās is about 20 miles SE. of Dalmah, and only a few miles from the shore at Jebel Dhannah. It is 6½ miles by 5 miles, with low shores, but central volcanic hills; at the S. end is a landlocked natural harbour known to British sailors as Meriton Bay, with a depth of 4–6 fathoms. Water is only obtainable after rain. The island is visited in winter by Beni Yās fishermen. 361

II. Dibai

This small principality lies on the Gulf Coast S. of Shārjah, between Abu Heil on the N. and the creek Khōr Ghanādhah on the S.; its extent towards the interior is not precisely known. It consists of low sandy country without important natural features, the only hill being Jebel el-'Āli, 19 miles SW. of Dibai town, which, though only 225 ft. high, is a landmark visible for 17 miles. The town contains almost the whole settled population, the only other places with permanent inhabitants being the small coast village of *Jumeirah*, 3 miles to the SW., and the larger isolated village of *Hajarein*, 50 miles away to the SE. in the Wādi Hatta, an isolated dependency, geographically belonging to the Sultanate of Oman. 635 133 361

The ruler of Dibai is Sheikh Sa'īd ibn Makhtūm, who succeeded his cousin Būti ibn Suheil in 1912, and is at feud with the latter's family. He is a wealthy chief, owing to the commercial importance of his capital, but his relations with the Indian Government have not been uniformly good; in August 1913 he had to be warned because a boat of H.M.S. *Sphinx* was fired on from the town. There had been trouble under previous rulers, chiefly owing to the use of Dibai by smugglers of arms (see above, p. 336). 622

The town of **Dibai**, with a population perhaps not far from 20,000, lies 7 miles SW. of Shārjah and 79 miles NE. of Abu Dhabi, on both sides of a creek with a shallow entrance extending some miles to the SE.; it was once walled, but with the exception of towers on 361 438 162

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

361 the landward side, the defences are ruinous. There is good water
•438 in wells from 5 to 30 ft. deep. The town has three main quarters:
162 (1) *Deirah*, on a tongue of land on the NE. side of the creek, between it and the sea, with a date-grove at the back, contains the main bazaar of 350 shops and about 1,600 houses, inhabited by Arabs, Persians, Baluchis, and others; (2) *Shandaghah*, on the SW. side of the creek, contains a residence of the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi, with about 250 houses all occupied by Arabs, domicile being forbidden to others; (3) *Dibai* proper, on the same side but farther from the sea, with about 200 houses, 50 shops, and the principal mosque, is the quarter in which British-Indian subjects are collected.

The chief elements of the population are: Beni Yās (440 houses), Āl Bu Maheir (400 houses), mixed Arabs, including natives of Hasa, Bahrein, and Koweit (400 houses), Persians (250 houses), Sūdān (250 houses), and Baluchis (200 houses). The people own about 4,000 date-trees; other cultivation is confined to a little lucerne; live stock includes nearly 2,000 camels, 400 donkeys, 400 head of cattle, and about 1,000 goats. There are about 335 pearl-boats, and 20 sea-going vessels.

504 The importance of Dibai lies in its increasing use as a port of call for steamers, which lie outside the creek; the place has largely supplanted Lingeh in Persia as the chief distributing centre of foreign goods to the interior, especially to the Bireimi oasis. Before the war, steamers of the British India and Bombay and Persia Steam Navigation Companies called at the port, the first at regular fortnightly intervals.

III. Shārjah

635 This is the most important of the principalities, having coasts on both gulfs, and covering a considerable portion of the Oman promontory. With the exception of the Sheikhdoms of 'Ajmān and Umm el-Qaiwein on the W. coast, and a part of the interior which is to all intents and purposes independent, it practically includes everything between a line from Sha'am to Dibah on the N., and Shārjah town and Khōr Kalba on the S. The principality is nominally all under the Sheikh Khālid ibn Ahmed, who succeeded Sajar ibn Khālid in 1914. But, as in Bahrein, his resources are curtailed by the cession of important territory as fiefs or appanages. The Sheikh rules Shārjah town and district, and the Oasis of Dheid is administered by a Vali in his name. But Ras el-Kheimah, under the late reign, had almost attained a recognized independence; and the important Sha.meilīyah district on the Gulf of Oman, nominally a fief held by a member of the ruling family residing in 'Aimān, has

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

634 133 361 to 165 ft. at its highest point; except for a little grazing it is barren. *Nābiyu Tunb*, 8 miles to the W. of Tunb, with an area of 1 mile by ¾ mile, is uninhabited and without water.

[632] 361 621 438 The town of **Ras el-Kheimah,** consisting of about 1,000 houses and forming the administrative centre of the district, is on the Gulf Coast, about 48 miles N. of Shārjah town. Sheikh Sālim ibn Sultān claims to be independent of Shārjah, but his independence has not yet been recognized. The town stands upon a narrow spit of land 2½ miles long, running parallel to the coast and connected with the mainland at the SW. end; the creek between the spit and the shore, though its entrance at low tide is only 2 ft. deep, has a general depth of 9 ft., and forms a good anchorage for native boats; large vessels must anchor 2½ miles to 3 miles NW. of the town.

About half of the houses are of stone and gypsum mortar, the remainder of date-branches. There is an old fort of no military value, and a ruinous wall crosses the isthmus SW. of the town. The inhabitants are a mixed race known as Ahl Ras el-Kheimah, occupying 400 houses, Mahārah (250 houses), Āl 'Ali (150 houses), and Āl Bu Maheir (120 houses), with a few Na'īm, Baluchis, and Khōjahs. Drinking-water is scanty and of poor quality. The town possesses about 16,000 date-palms, while the large groves belonging to *Sīr* begin on the mainland opposite the town. The people own 33 pearl-boats and 15 other sea-going vessels, with about 120 fishing-boats; live stock includes some 800 goats, 150 cattle, 175 donkeys, 130 camels, and 20 horses. Trade resembles that of other ports on the Trucial Coast; the chief manufacture is of daggers. At Mahārah, the site of an old village on the E. side of the creek, there is usually a temporary colony, sometimes of Persians from Rams. The chief villages, of 100 houses and above, are as follows:——

In Ras el-Kheimah district:

1. *Rams*: 400 houses, mostly of mud and stone, on the coast about 8 miles NE. of Ras el-Kheimah town, on the S. side of a small creek with shallow entrance. The inhabitants are Taneij, chiefly pearl-divers and fishermen, but owning date plantations partly situated at *Dhāyah*, a place now uninhabited, 2 miles inland. Live-stock includes 500 goats, 50 donkeys, 20 camels, 20 head of cattle.

2. *Sha'am*: about 300 houses, mostly of mud, on the coast 17 miles NNE. of Ras el-Kheimah town and 2 miles S. of Ras Sha'am. Inhabitants are all Shihūh, occupied with pearl-diving, fishing, and cultivation, and owning a few pearl-boats and coasting vessels, with 7,000 date-palms. Live stock: 50 donkeys, 30 camels, 20 head of cattle. About 1 mile S. is a small tower upon a hillock used for defence.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

3. *Dibah*, on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, 1 mile S. of Bei'ah; the most southerly village of the Sultanate; nearly 200 houses, half of which are occupied by the peasant class known as Bayādīr, the rest by 'Awānāt, Naqbiyīn, and Sharqiyīn; good wells with water at 25 ft.; 10,000 date-palms. Live stock: sheep, goats, donkeys, and camels. Dibah is held as a fief by a relative of the Sheikh, who also governs the small village of *Wamm*, a few miles to the W.

In the tract of Sīr :—

4. *Shimil*, 5 miles inland; 200 houses of Beni Shameili; 4,000 date-palms. Live stock: sheep, camels, and a few head of cattle.

In the tract of Jīri :—

5. *Khatt*, under the hills on the E. side of the plain about 12 miles SSE. of Ras el-Kheimah town; 100 houses. Oasis of 20,000 date-palms, and a hot spring used for irrigation. Live stock of sheep, donkeys, camels, and cattle.

In Jezīrat el-Hamra island :—

6. Village of the same name: 500 houses of the Za'āb tribe, divided into two quarters, *Umm 'Aweimir* and *Manākh*; 25 pearl-boats. Live stock: 500 sheep, 100 camels, 100 donkeys, and 150 cattle.

ii. *Shameilīyah*, on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, extending for more than 30 miles from Gharfah on the N., to Khōr Kalba on the S., and inland to the Wādi Hām, the boundary towards Shārjah district, the lower part of which it includes. The hills in the N. approach the coast, but recede from it in the S.

The principal villages, all on the coast, are the following, in order from N. to S. :—

1. *Bidyah*; 300 houses of Sharqiyīn fishermen, and cultivators of dates, wheat, and maize; 10 sea-going boats running to Sīb and Muscat; 3,500 date-trees. Live stock: 200 head of cattle, 100 sheep and goats, donkeys and camels.

2. *Khōr Fakkān*, fief of a relative of the Sheikh; about 5 miles S. of Bidyah on the S. shore of a bay with sheltered boat harbour at its E. end; 150 houses of Naqbiyīn and Persians, living by cultivation of wheat and dates and by pearl-diving; good water; 5,000 date-palms; a few shops; 4 or 5 coasting vessels running to Muscat.

3. *Fujeirah*, 15 miles S. of Khōr Fakkān, but about 2 miles from the sea; its landing-place is called Ghareifah. Fujeirah is surrounded by a 9-ft. wall, with an outer ditch and breastwork on the S. and W. sides. It has 150 houses, chiefly of mud and stone, occupied by Sharqiyīn pearl-divers and cultivators. It is the stronghold of the Sharqi leader, Nāsir ibn Shāhin et-Tawār, who claims independent rule over the village and a considerable neighbouring tract.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

361 621 438

4. *Ghāllah* (or *Kalba*), 4 miles S. of Fujeirah; about 300 houses, chiefly of date-branch, and a few mud go-downs; a small fort held by a representative of Shārjah. Inhabitants chiefly Naqbiyīn and Sharqiyīn, fishermen and cultivators. About 25,000 date-palms, and tobacco plantations in the hills; wheat also grown. About 10 sea-going boats run to Muscat, Mekrān, and the Persian Coast.

5. *Khōr Kalba*, 4 to 5 miles S. of Ghāllah, situated on a creek, and defended by a fort; 150 houses of the Za'āb tribe, who own a few sea-going boats. Not to be confounded with Ghāllah, which is also called Kalba.

iii. *Dheid*, a plain measuring about 15 miles in each direction, situated in the interior about 30 miles due E. of Shārjah town; it is bounded on the E. by the hills forming the backbone of the Oman promontory, on the W. and N. by sand-dunes, and on the S. by the shingly plateau of Qallah Mahāfidh. Dheid is fairly well wooded, containing numerous acacia trees, and after rain produces abundance of coarse grass. It is also sufficiently watered; a stream (*felej*) flowing from *Wādi Haqālah* in the hills to the SE. irrigates the cultivation round Dheid village. There are also wells at *Muraqqibāt*, 3–4 miles N. of the village, on the route across the promontory from Umm el-Qaiwein to Fujeirah, in the Fareikh valley, a few miles NW. of Muraqqibāt, at *Tū'i 'Ali*, 6 miles SSW. from the village under the sand-dunes bordering the plain, and at *Wushāh*, 3½ miles S. by E. of the village in the Wādi Katheirah on the route to the Bireimi oasis. In the summer months a continuous hot wind blows; at other times the climate is not oppressive.

There is only one village of any size in the district:—

Dheid, consisting of about 140 date-leaf huts inhabited by Taneij, Beni Qitab, and Na'īm; in the quarters occupied by the first and last there are fortified mud towers. On the E. side of the village is a large fort of the Sheikh of Shārjah, with a tower at each angle, and held by the governor of the district. Through the precincts of the fort runs the above-mentioned stream, the water being systematically distributed to the cultivators of the neighbouring date-groves; before being tapped for irrigation it is about 3 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, clear, and with a strong flow. A little wheat is grown, and there is the usual complement of domestic animals. There is reason to think that in the event of British or Indian troops being required in Trucial Oman, Dheid would be the most suitable station for them in the interior, at least during the cold weather. The water-supply is excellent and ample; camel and other grazing is abundant; and the place is probably already accessible for wheeled transport

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

361
621
438.

from Ras el-Kheimah town by way of the Sīr and Jiri plains, besides which there are camel routes through the hills connecting it with the ports of the Shameiliyah district on the other side of the Oman promontory.' (*Persian Gulf Gazetteer.*)

iv. *Shārjah*, a narrow strip of sandy desert on the W. coast between 'Ajmān and Dibai; the Sheikh of Shārjah also claims the allegiance of *Hamriyah* on the other side of 'Ajmān. The chief centres of a population amounting in the aggregate to about 20,000 are three coastal villages and the town of Shārjah.

The town of **Shārjah**, the capital, and residence of the Sheikh, is the most important town on the Trucial Coast. It is situated between 'Ajmān and Dibai, and extends for more than a mile along the E. shore of a small creek parallel to the sea, a detached quarter, *Layyah*, standing on the opposite shore; at low tide the entrance to the creek, on the NE., has only about 2 ft. of water. At the S. end of the town is a bluff rising 30–40 ft.; inland the country is sand with scattered date-groves. There are numerous masonry buildings, including 21 mosques, but most of the houses are of date-branches, and the streets are really narrow and crooked lanes. The population of about 15,000 is composed of Shweihiyīn (400 houses), *Hūwalah* and Sūdān (300 houses each), Āl 'Ali, Āl Bu Maheir, 'Abādilah and Matārīsh (200 houses each), Na'īm (100 houses), and mixed tribes (700 houses); nearly all the Arabs are Wahabis, calling themselves Hanbali Sunnis. About 200 British-Indians reside in the town, whose interests are protected by a native agent from the British Residency at Bushire. The bazaar has 200 shops, and there is an equal number of warehouses for wheat, rice, and dates. The chief manufacture is of fine woollen abbas. A few sea-going boats are also built yearly, and about 20 vessels run to Basra, the Persian Coast, Bombay, and occasionally to Yemen; there are also nearly 200 pearl-boats, with an equal number of fishing-boats. Date plantations contain some 4 000 trees, and live stock includes about 500 camels, 550 donkeys, 2,200 sheep and goats, and some cattle.

The villages are:—

1. *Hamriyah*, 12 miles NE. of Shārjah town and 6 miles NE. of 'Ajmān; about 300 houses. It is situated on the N. side of a creek defended by a fort on the shore, and by several towers. The inhabitants are chiefly Na'īm, owning about 20 pearl-boats and 1,000 date palms, with live stock including camels, donkeys, cattle, and sheep. The local Sheikh, 'Abd er-Rāhim, nominally under Shārjah, is practically independent, and may ultimately be recognized as a Trucial chief.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

361 621 438 2. *Heir*, between Shārjah town and 'Ajmān, defended by 7 or 8 towers; 250 houses of Na'īm, owning 25 pearl-boats, 2,500 date-palms, and live stock of camels, donkeys, cattle, sheep, and goats; wells 3–5 fathoms deep.

3. *Khān*, on the N. side of an inlet about 2 miles SW. of Shārjah town. About 200 houses, chiefly of stone set in gypsum mortar or mud; inhabitants, Āl Bu Maheir, Mazārī', and Manāsīr, owning 74 pearl-boats and 40 fishing-boats, with camels, donkeys, cattle, and goats.

IV. 'Ajmān

635 361 621 438 A small principality consisting of the town of the same name and its environs, situated 6 miles SW. of Hamrīyah, and 5 miles NE. of Shārjah, in the territory of which it forms an enclave. It lies on the S. side of the entrance of a creek with 5 feet of water on the bar at low tide. The population is less than 1,000, chiefly Āl Bu Maheir and Na'īm, all pearl-divers and fishermen, owning about 40 pearl-boats and 25 fishing-boats. Fresh water is obtained from wells 9 ft. deep, of which the locality is constantly changing. There are date plantations with about 2,000 trees, but no other cultivation. Live stock includes camels, donkeys, cattle, goats, and a few horses.

The Sheikh, Hāmid ibn 'Abd el-'Azīz, who succeeded his murdered father in 1910, is of a rough and quarrelsome character; he has given trouble by connivance at the illicit traffic in arms. Friendly relations usually subsist between the Sheikh and the inhabitants of Bireimi.

V. Umm el-Qaiwein

Another small principality composed of a town with the adjoining country, and also forming an enclave in Shārjah. It extends northwards to Jezīrat el-Hamra and southwards part of the way to Hamrīyah. The town lies about 12 miles NE. of 'Ajmān and 18 miles NE. of Shārjah, on the E. end of a peninsula, forming, with a neighbouring island, a landlocked creek with very shallow entrance; it is defended by a wall across the isthmus, and by detached block-houses. There are about 1,000 houses, 250 of which are of stone, the rest of date-branches; they include 20 shops. The inhabitants, numbering some 5,000, belong chiefly to the Āl 'Ali tribe, and are mostly pearl-divers and fishermen, owning about 70 pearl-boats and 60 fishing-boats, with a sea-going vessel running to Bombay; about 20 boats are built yearly in the town. Live stock includes 720 camels, with donkeys, horses, sheep, and goats. The water is good, obtained from

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
Trucial Oman MK4

wells 6 ft. deep ; date plantations comprise about 1,500 trees. The only point of importance not on the coast is *Felej Āl 'Ali*, about 16 miles SE. of the town, with about 5,000 date-palms belonging to the Sheikh, irrigated by a stream ; this is a place of assemblage for Bedouins in the Umm el-Qaiwein service when called to arms.

The Sheikh, Rashīd ibn Ahmed, is at feud with his expelled half-brother Nāsir, who disputes his title. In 1914, on his persistent refusal to settle certain claims of Nāsir, Rashīd was coerced by H.M.SS. *Fox*, *Dartmouth*, and *Odin*, and forced to pay Rs. 10,000, with a fine of Rs. 15,000.